Southern Ontario Library Service

SIGNAL ONLINE - an e-mail newsletter

January 23, 2004

Published by the Southern Ontario Library Service

The introductory page for the Southern Ontario Library Service is www.sols.org. From that page, you can move to any other pages created by staff at the Southern Ontario Library Service, as well as to links to resources and professional information.

Note - as this is an older newsletter, some links may no longer be valid, or may refer you to a section of the site that has been updated in the interim. Please contact helpdesk@sols.org if you want more information on a specific initiative.

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In this issue:

1. SOLS FUNDING
2. SOLS CHARITABLE/CONSORTIA PURCHASING AGREEMENTS
3. E-BOOK COLLECTION
4. SOUTHERN ONTARIO MULTILINGUAL POOL
5. TRILLIUM GRANT FOLLOW-UP AND 'THANK YOU'S'
6. CANADIAN HERITAGE AND THE FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES READ PROGRAM
7. WEB AWARENESS DAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2004
8. WEB SITE UPDATE
9. SOLS SPRING 2004 WORKSHOPS
10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

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1. SOLS FUNDING

Further to the SOLS' funding announcements in the December Board Summary and December Signal, Laurey Gillies, SOLS CEO announced that the Ottawa office will close effective February 29, 2004. The staff in the Ottawa office are being relocated to home offices. These staff are Bill Mitchell, Peggy Malcolm, Claire-Marie Paquette-Finlay, Terry Sarazen, Louise Godbout-Legault, Diane Lozanski, and Nancy McPherson.

This change is part of a larger picture. Based on preliminary budget planning for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006, SOLS is projecting a shortfall of $200,000 in each of the next two fiscal years. The biggest single factor for 04/05 is the reinstatement of OMERS contributions but this is

complicated by increasing costs for office space, benefits, and most goods and services with no increase in funding.

In developing alternatives to address this funding pressure, every effort has been made to reduce administrative costs first, and staff and services only after that. Besides closing the Ottawa office and relocating the staff to home offices, our plans also include:

- Downsizing the Toronto office.
- Reducing a number of administrative costs, such as cancelling cell phones for staff, and revising the structure of board meetings to reduce accommodation and travel expenses.
- Implementing voluntary reduced work time for interested staff.
- Increasing fees for EXCEL, workshops, and pool memberships.
- Restructuring our service delivery in Library Development.
- As a last resort, we will consider reductions to the delivery service.

As plans develop, libraries will be notified through the SOLSCEO e-mail list, as well as through Signal.

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2. SOLS CHARITABLE/CONSORTIA PURCHASING AGREEMENTS

SOLS negotiates charitable/consortia purchasing agreements (CPA's) on behalf of SOLS libraries. CPA's are 'economies of scale' pricing for the purchase or lease of a range of goods and services. Individual libraries do not have the volume buying power to secure such low prices on their own. There is no guarantee of volume of sales made to potential vendors, and libraries are completely free to use the agreements or not, to meet their individual needs. Current CPA include courier service, computer hardware, fridge magnets, office products, printer toner cartridges, and turn-key library automation systems.

A new section of the SOLS Web site has been established for this service. More information about the service, including a series of Frequently Asked Questions about CPA's, can be found at http://www.sols.org/resourcesharing/coolcpa/index.htm

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3. E-BOOK COLLECTION

Over 60 public libraries now subscribe to ebooks!

Since November, we have encouraged public libraries to consider participating in the COOL shared e-book collection. A number of Web demonstrations on the product were scheduled, and over 40 libraries took advantage of them to see what the product has to offer. As a result, we have doubled participation by public libraries in the collection from 30 to over 60.

The Collection Development Committee for public libraries has also been very busy selecting titles. In December, over 660 titles were added to the collection. The Ontario Shared Ebook Collection now numbers close to 4000. With increased library participation, libraries can expect even more titles to become available over the next two months. The Bibliocentre and OCUL (Ontario Council of University Libraries) will also be adding their selections to the collection.

If your library is interested in e-books, please contact Barbara Franchetto or Dayna Lintner at 1-800-387-5765 ext 5104 or 5112 respectively, or by e-mail at bfranchetto@sols.org and dlintner@sols.org .

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4. SOUTHERN ONTARIO MULTILINGUAL POOL

a) The members of the Southern Ontario Multilingual Pool (SOMP) would like to invite other libraries to join this pool. SOMP is a self-governed pool, receiving administrative support from SOLS, which provides blocks of videos and print material to member libraries in languages other than English and French. As of January 2004, the pool is comprised of 4480 videos in 18 languages, and 5140 books in 20 languages, that are made available to libraries in blocks of 20 items. The 2004 membership basic fee is $1,100 plus GST. There is also an administration fee of $50 per member, and a secondary fee of $1400 (for processing), split among the current members.

Member libraries complete a "Language Profile" form stating their priorities for format, languages, and number of pool blocks. While the number of blocks a library can request is not limited, SOLS staff try to balance the priorities of all of the members when compiling the rotations schedule. Print material is rotated annually in September, and video material is rotated twice a year in September and February.

Policy decisions, including fees, are made by the members at the annual general meeting in March of each year. The members are currently investigating the expansion of the pool to include Multilingual DVDs.

If you are interested in joining the pool, membership forms can be printed from the SOLS Web site. Membership applications will be accepted until the beginning of March. If you have questions, contact either Gwen Wheeler at gwheeler@sols.org (1-877-532-2981) or Peggy Malcolm at pmalcolm@sols.org (1-800-267-2758 ext 823).

b) Community Language Profiles - Libraries can assess their multilingual community by using 2001 Census data on mother tongue from the Statistics Canada site. Visit the SOMP page of the SOLS website to link to the appropriate page. In small municipalities, that are not included in this source of data, libraries can request access to E-stats, http://www.statcan.ca/english/Estat/licence.htm . E-stats provides statistical information to non-profit institutions, including libraries and school boards. The service is free but the library must be participating in the federal government's Depository Services Program. To inquire, call 1-800-465-1222.

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5. TRILLIUM GRANT FOLLOW-UP AND 'THANK YOU'S'
Submitted by Rob Lavery, Resource Development Consultant

Libraries have been inquiring about appropriate follow up to the Ontario Trillium Foundation's special grant initiative for small libraries (serving populations under 20,000). All successful libraries should make a point to show appreciation for the grant opportunity to the following people:

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur
Minister of Culture
12th floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Rita Scagnetti
Director, Heritage and Libraries Branch
rita.scagnetti@mczcr.gov.on.ca

and at the Ontario Trillium Foundation:

Ontario Trillium Foundation
45 Charles Street East, 5th floor
Toronto, ON M4Y 1S2
Mr. L Robin Cardozo, Chief Executive Officer

Patricia Else, Director of Grant Operations

Robert G. Power, Chair of the Board

As the grant initiative was structured as a one-time only funding opportunity, it is very important for libraries to give positive feedback so that decision-makers know that this program is of great value to small libraries. It is highly recommend that all libraries indicate their appreciation for the OTF grant initiative, and express their hopes that this kind of opportunity continue. And as a general rule of thumb in fundraising - it's very important to say thank you for donations, as soon as you receive the funds - this is the beginning of the relationship, not the end!!

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6. CANADIAN HERITAGE AND THE FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES READ PROGRAM

The First Nation Communities Read (FNCR) program received a boost after Allan Clarke, Director General, Publishing Policy and Programs, Canadian Heritage, read about the FNCR program in Quill & Quire. Clarke arranged to meet with SOLS staff members, Patty Lawlor and Rob Lavery, to discuss the shared interests of the FNCR program and Canadian Heritage's Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP). The meeting ended with a commitment from the Canadian Heritage program to fund the purchase of additional copies of Solomon's Tree, the 2004 FNCR title, for Ontario's First Nation public libraries. As well, the BPIDP committed to funding a mini-tour by the picture book's creators. First stop is the First Nations Public Library (FNPL) Week 2004 Launch at Big Grassy First Nation Public Library in northwestern Ontario on February 9. Andrea Spalding, author, Janet Wilson, illustrator, and Victor Reece, Tsimpshian master carver, will also read and discuss Solomon's Tree in three other northern Ontario First Nation communities during FNPL Week. Discussion continues about further ways in which BPIDP may help grow the FNCR program.

The FNCR program was launched last year as a First Nations Public Library Week initiative. For more information about the FNCR and FNPL Week programs, visit the SOLS web site or contact Patty Lawlor, First Nations Consultant, by phone at 1-800-387-5765, Ext. 5107 or e-mail at plawlor@sols.org . There is also a FNPL Week session at the OLA Super Conference on Friday, January 30 at 9:00 a.m.

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7. WEB AWARENESS DAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2004

February 19 has been designated as National Web Awareness Day. Libraries in Ontario are encouraged to use the theme - Parenting the Net Generation: It's not just by the book anymore - as a positive and high-profile opportunity to deliver the message that they are ready to support parents and communities in teaching young Canadians literacy skills for the 21st century.

Web Awareness Day promotional material will be distributed to all libraries in southern Ontario, including posters, bookmarks and booklets. Electronic versions of this material, as well as programming ideas, are provided free of charge to public libraries and can be accessed from Canadian Library Association's Web Awareness portal at http://www.cla.ca/webaware/index.htm .There is also a link on the main SOLS Web site to the Web site.

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8. WEB SITE UPDATE

a) Employment Opportunities under the "Young Canada Works" program

The 2004 application form for the English program of the Young Canada Works" program will be available for download during the week of January 26th. The tentative application deadline is

March 1, 2004, 5 pm. The Web address for further information is http://www.cla.ca/awards/ycw/index.htm

All French-language applications for this program are being handled by Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED). Please visit their website for service in French. http://www.asted.org/communiques/200202/jeunesse.htm

There is a link from the main SOLS page at www.sols.org to this program.

b) In the "Professional Information" section of the SOLS Web, there is a link to a sub-section entitled, " Technical Services for Libraries". The links on this page refer primarily to 'authorities', such as:

Canadian Subject Headings (National Library of Canada) http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/6/23/index-e.html - This is a list of subject headings in the English language, using controlled vocabulary, to access and express the subject content of documents on Canada and Canadian topics. The site provides free, up-to-date access to over 6000 subject authority records in the English language.

Library of Congress Subject Headings Authorities http://authorities.loc.gov/ - Using Library of Congress Authorities, you can browse and display authority headings for Subject, Name, Title and Name/Title combinations. You can also download authority records in MARC format for use in a local library system. This service is offered free of charge.

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9. SOLS SPRING 2004 WORKSHOPS

SOLS workshops are offered as a response to requests and suggestions received from past workshop participants. We hope that you will find something of interest to you and your staff or volunteers this season. This spring, there will be a series of VDX User Group meetings, as well as a number of trustee orientation workshops. We have planned workshops on 'Using books to build community', 'Starting a graphic novel collection', 'Developing communication strategies to raise the library's profile in a community' and 'Playing the Match Game: Connecting Books and Readers – The Sequel'.

On Friday, February 6, 2004, information about the workshops, as well as registration forms, will be posted on the SOLS Web site. There will be a special edition of Signal to provide details about the Spring 2004 training workshops offered by SOLS.

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10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

a) Small Libraries Committees

SOLS provides an opportunity for library staff members to meet and discuss issues of common interest. Committee meetings of area libraries are held three times a year, and often involve a special clinic on a particular area of interest. Information about the meetings, including an agenda for each meeting, is posted on the SOLS Web site. The next round of meetings will be as follows:

- Monday, February 23, 2004- Lanark - Carleton Place Library
- Monday, February 23, 2004- Peterborough - Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield Library, Lakefield Branch
- Wednesday, February 25, 2004 - Leeds & Grenville - Rideau Lakes Library, Elgin Branch
- Wednesday, February 25, 2004 - Simcoe & Muskoka - Tay Twp. Public Library, Port McNicoll Branch
- Monday, March 1, 2004 - Tri-County - Stirling-Rawdon Library

- Monday, March 1, 2004 – Saugeen - North Perth Public Library
- Thursday, March 4, 2004 – Renfrew - Arnprior Public Library
- Monday, March 8, 2004 – Escarpment - Brant County Public Library

b) Trustee Councils

The purpose of the SOLS Trustee Councils is to provide:

- A communication link between SOLS and boards regarding SOLS' services
- A forum for sharing information
- An opportunity to hear how other boards deal with similar issues
- Suggestions and support for trustee training
- To elect members to the SOLS' board according to the terms established in the by-laws

Trustee Councils meet twice a year in eight locations and all public library boards may send a representative. While all appointed trustee council representatives will receive a print mailing of the agenda, the dates of the upcoming meetings have been included below for your information. You may wish to share this information at the next library board meeting.

- Saturday, April 24, 2004 - TC 1 - Huron County Library – Goderich Branch, 10am to 1pm
- Saturday, April 24, 2004 - TC 6 – Belleville Public Library, 10am to 1pm
- Monday, April 26, 2004 - Escarpment TC - Burlington Central Library, Seminar Room, 6pm to 9pm
- Monday, April 26, 2004 - TC 3 – Hanover Public Library, 6pm to 9pm
- Saturday, May 1, 2004 - TC 8 – Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry County Library – Winchester Branch, noon to 3:30pm
- Saturday, May 1, 2004 - TC 5 – Ajax Public Library, 10am to 1pm.
- Wednesday, May 5, 2004 - TC 7 - Bonnechere Union (Eganville), 6pm to 9pm.
- Thursday, May 6, 2004 - TC 4 – Gravenhurst Public Library, 6pm to 9pm

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All issues of SIGNAL, including the French version of SIGNAL, can be viewed online at http://www.sols.org/librarydev/publications/Signal/index.htm . However, if anyone would like to receive the e-mail version of this newsletter, please send a message to or telephone at 1-800-267-2758, extension 823.

Disclaimer. For questions, comments and suggestions regarding this website, please Contact SOLS Helpdesk.
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